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Ontario Announces Mandatory COVID Vaccination Policies for High-Risk Settings

To protect vulnerable patients and staff in high-risk settings where contracting and transmitting COVID-19 and the Delta variant is higher, the **Chief Medical Officer of Health has issued a directive mandating hospitals and home and community care service providers to have a COVID-19 vaccination policy for employees, staff, contractors, students and volunteers**, and for ambulance services to have a COVID-19 vaccination policy for paramedics.

The vaccination policy must be in effect no later than September 7, 2021, and requires that individuals in high-risk settings provide proof of **one** of the following:

- Full vaccination against COVID-19;
- A medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19; or
- Completion of a COVID-19 vaccination educational session.

Individuals can prove they are fully vaccinated by showing the physical or emailed receipt that was provided to them at the time of vaccination. [Vaccination receipts can also be downloaded or printed through the provincial portal](#) or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900. This version of the vaccine receipt contains a watermark and a digital signature.

Individuals who do not provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 will be required to undertake regular antigen testing. The high-risk settings covered by the mandate will be required to track and report on the implementation of their policies to the provincial government. Vaccination policies will also be implemented in other higher-risk settings such as:

- Post-secondary institutions;
- Licensed retirement homes;
- Women's shelters; and
- Congregate group homes and day programs for adults with developmental disabilities, children's treatment centres and other services for children with special needs, and licensed children's residential settings.

The province will start offering third doses of the COVID vaccine to Ontario's most vulnerable populations.

If you have practice-specific questions, please contact or practice advisor at practice@cocoo.on.ca

[View the announcement from the Ontario government here.](#)